Name of Announcement	Agency	Timing/Target Date	Current Status
Dioxin (non-cancer) - IRIS Health Reassessment (Draft Reanalysis)	ORD/NCEA	Final Interagency Science Discussion: 12/13/11 Date of Action (public release): 1/31/12	EPA received the SAB's final external peer review report on August 29. EPA issued a press release on August 29 on the SAB Report and announced a plan to split the assessment, separating the cancer and noncancer portions. EPA will now complete the non-cancer portion of the reassessment according to SAB and public comments and release it by 1/31/12 along with a press release. The cancer portion of the document will also be revised according to comments and released at a later date. Final Agency and interagency review of the non-cancer portion began on October 31. A courtesy briefing was provided to the Agency and Interagency reviewers on November 3. Comments from these groups were due on November 30.

Vanadium Pentoxide - IRIS Health Assessment	ORD/NCEA	Date of Action (public listening session): 12/8/11 The final assessment is tentatively set to be released in early spring 2012.	This draft assessment has undergone internal Agency review and Interagency Science Consultation (Steps 2 and 3 of the IRIS Process) and was released for public comment and external peer review on September 30, 2011, as announced in an FRN. A public listening session will be held on 12/8/11 followed by an external peer review meeting, after which the assessment will be revised according to comments and enter final Agency/interagency review (Step 6). The final assessment is tentatively set to be released in early spring 2012.
GAO IRIS Report	ORD/NCEA	Receipt of draft report: 10/26/2011 Submission of response to draft report: 11/21/11 Date of Action (public release of report): 12/9/11	EPA receieved the draft GAO IRIS report on 10/26/11. We have prepared a desk statement and Q&As. A draft press release has also been drafted to accompany the release of GAO's report (pending OEA approval). We have reviewed the report and developed a response, submitted to GAO on 11/21/11. GAO's final report is anticipated December 9 [Note: We have heard the report may be embargoed for 30 days at the request of the Congressman who initiated the original GAO investigation. We will keep you informed as we learn more.]

Tetrachloroethylene (Perc) - IRIS Health Assessment	ORD/NCEA	Date of Action (final release): week of December 12; Date of press release (if approved by OEA): concurrent with final posting.	This draft assessment has undergone internal Agency review and Interagency Science Consultation (Steps 2 and 3 of the IRIS Process) and was released for public comment and external peer review in 2008. EPA revised the assessment according to recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, received on 3/26/10. Final Agency/interagency review (Step 6) began on 6/24/11. The draft document is being revised based on comments received. The final assessment is expected to be posted the week of December 12. We are proposing a press release accompany the release of the final assessment (pending OEA approval).
Tetrahydrofuran - IRIS Health Assessment	ORD/NCEA	Date of Action (final posting): 12/16/2011	This draft assessment has undergone internal Agency review and Interagency Science Consultation (Steps 2 and 3 of the IRIS Process) and was released for public comment and external peer review in 2007. EPA revised the assessmetn according to recommendations from the external peer review committee. The revised draft assessment underwent final Agency review/interagency science discussion (Step 6) and is expected to be posted on December 16.

Pathology Working Group (PWG) Review Report on Ramazzini Data	ORD/NCEA	Date of Action (public release of report): late December	EPA anticipates the PWG review report to be released in late December. A desk statement, press release, and Q&As are being prepared in preparation for this release.
Biphenyl - IRIS Health Assessment	ORD/NCEA	Date of Action (external peer review meeting): January 2012	This draft assessment has undergone internal Agency review and Interagency Science Consultation (Steps 2 and 3 of the IRIS Process) and was released for public comment and external peer review on September 30, 2011, as announced in an FRN. A public listening session was held on 11/16/11 and will be followed by an external peer review meeting in January, after which the assessment will be revised according to comments and enter final Agency/interagency review. The final assessment is tentatively set to be released in spring 2012.

Methanol (non-cancer) - IRIS Health Assessment	ORD/NCEA	Date of Action (interagency review): 1/9/2012	This draft assessment has undergone internal Agency review and Interagency Science Consultation (Steps 2 and 3 of the IRIS Process) and was released for public comment and external peer review in April 2011, as announced in an FRN. An external peer review meeting for this assessment was held in July 2011. The assessment is currently being revised according to public and peer reviewer comments and will begin final Agency and interagency review (Step 6) on January 9, after which it is expected to be finalized and posted in late March 2012.
Ethylene oxide - IRIS Health Assessment	ORD/NCEA	Date of Action (final posting): 12/30/2011	This draft assessment has undergone internal Agency review and Interagency Science Consultation (Steps 2 and 3 of the IRIS Process) and was released for public comment and external peer review in 2006, as announced in an FRN. EPA revised the assessment according to recommendations from the SAB and final Agency/interagency review (Step 6) began on 7/27/11. The final assessment is expected to be posted on December 30.

Halogenated Platinum Salts and Other Platinum Compounds/IRIS Health Assessment	ORD/NCEA	Date of Action (final release): mid January	This draft assessment has undergone internal Agency review and Interagency Science Consultation (Steps 2 and 3 of the IRIS Process) and was released for public comment and external peer review in 2009, as announced in an FRN. EPA is working on the final version of the assessment and preparing it for posting. The draft is in final Agency review and Interagency Science Discussion (Step 6).
Formaldehyde - IRIS Health Assessment	ORD/NCEA	Date of Action: TBD	EPA is revising its draft formaldehyde assessment in response to NAS comments received on 4/7/11. Next steps for the assessment are currently under discussion.
Hexavalent Chromium - IRIS Health Assessment	ORD/NCEA	Date of Action: TBD	This draft assessment has undergone internal Agency review and Interagency Science Consultation (Steps 2 and 3 of the IRIS Process) and was released for public comment and external peer review in September 2010, as announced in an FRN. The final peer review report was received on July 6. Next steps for the assessment are currently under discussion.

Libby Asbestos- IRIS Health Assessment	ORD/NCEA	Date of Action (external peer review meeting): early February	This draft assessment has undergone internal Agency review and Interagency Science Consultation (Steps 2 and 3 of the IRIS Process) and was released for public comment and external peer review on 8/25/11, as announced in an FRN. The public listening session took place on 10/6/11 in Washington, DC (Potomac Yards facility), with accomodations at a public library in Libby, MT for interested members of the public. An SAB external peer review meeting is tentatively scheduled for early February 2012. The assessment will enter final interagency review in fall 2012.
Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) (noncancer) - IRIS Health Assessment	ORD/NCEA	Date of submission to FR: 4 business days prior to posting Date of Action (draft release): March 2012 Date of FRN publication: March 2012	On May 20, NCEA sent the draft IRIS assessment for internal Agency review. It entered interagency review on 7/29/11. The draft will be edited to incorporate comments from reviewers. The revised draft document is expected to be released for external peer review and public comment in March 2012, which will be announced via FRN.

Arsenic (cancer) - IRIS Health Assessment	ORD/NCEA	TBD	This draft assessment has undergone internal Agency review and Interagency Science Consultation (Steps 2 and 3 of the IRIS Process) and was released for public comment and external peer review in 2010, as announced in an FRN. EPA is revising the report according recommendations from the Science Advisory Board received in early March 2011. Final interagency review (Step 6) is anticipated to begin in May 2012. Next steps for the assessment are currently under discussion.
Arsenic (noncancer)/IRIS Health Assessment	ORD/NCEA	Date of Action (1st round of Agency review, Step 2 of IRIS process): October 2012	This assessment is still under draft development. It is expected to begin Agency review (Step 2 of the IRIS process) in October 2012. It will then go through interagency review in late 2012 before being released for public comment and external peer review, announced via FRN.

Brief description of announcement (including who may like or dislike it)

This draft Reanalysis (non-cancer) responds to the National Academies of Science comments on the 2003 draft dioxin health assessment. It includes the first ever toxicity value of the estimated amount of dioxin that one can be exposed to by mouth daily over a lifetime without harmful non-cancer health effects. The value may be controversial because it very close to the "background" levels of dioxin that most Americans are exposed to through their diet (primarily through animal fats). The draft Reanalysis (non-cancer) concludes that dioxin causes male fertility impacts and increased levels of thyroid hormones in newborns. EPA made a decision to move forward with completing the non-cancer portion of the draft dioxin Reanalysis after receiving the review of the draft Reanalysis (which included cancer and non-cancer assessments) by EPA's Science Advisory Board in August 2011. The non-cancer portion of the assessment will be completed by January 31, 2012. Within EPA, this assessment is of particular interest to OSWER as it impacts the development of their Preliminary Remediation Goal for Dioxin. Multiple stakeholders also have intense interest, including other federal agencies, such as USDA and HHS, industry, environmental and public health organizations, and Congress.

This assessment addresses potential non-cancer and cancer human health effects from chronic or long-term exposures. It contains toxicity values of the estimated daily amount that one can be exposed to over a lifetime without harmful health effects, as well as toxicity values to estimate the cancer risk from lifetime exposure. Vanadium pentoxide is the most common commercial form of vanadium. It is used in the production process by some industries and is present in the fuel oils left behind after combustion in dusts, soot, boiler scale, and fly ash. Vanadium pentoxide is also used as a catalyst for sulfuric acid production and for some nanomaterials. Vanadium is found at multiple Superfund sites, as both a soil or groundwater contaminant. Vanadium pentoxide was nominated for reassessment by the Office of Air and Radiation. Concerns are expected from industries that use or produce vanadium pentoxide, including the Vanadium Producers and Reclaimers Association (VPRA).

In a March 2008 report, GAO concluded the IRIS program was at risk of becoming obsolete and made several recommendations for improving the process. Additionally, in January 2009, EPA's processes for assessing and controlling toxic chemicals were added to GAO's High Risk list. The IRIS assessment process, along with the TSCA program, were included in this topic. In response to these recommendations, EPA instituted a streamlined IRIS process in May 2009 to help reduce the backlog of assessments and has since made additional changes to further strengthen the program. These changes have resulted in significant progress. This 2011 GAO IRIS report will evaluate the progress that has been made by the IRIS program and identify any areas that remain challenged. Industry, Congressional and media interest is anticipated.

This draft assessment addresses the potential non-cancer and cancer human health effects from chronic or long-term exposures to tetrachloroethylene, or perc. It will replace the 1988 IRIS assessment for perc which does not include the noncancer inhalation health effects, and does not address cancer effects from either oral or inhalation exposure. The assessment will provide the first characterization by US EPA of perc as a "likely human carcinogen," and provides the first EPA estimates of cancer risk from lifetime exposures based on animal studies. The estimates of noncancer health effects are based on neurotoxicity effects in adults through workplace exposure. This assessment will support future regulatory limits and clean-up values for this chemical. This cancer classification will have implications for certain regulatory offices within EPA. For example, EPA's Office of Water has initiated an action to regulate a group of carcinogenic volatile organic compounds. Perc will be included in this group, and the availability of a cancer assessment will be important for this action. Perc is a chemical solvent widely used in dry cleaning, metal degreasing, the manufacture of some consumer products and other chemicals, is a prevalent groundwater and drinking water contaminant, is present in hundreds of Superfund sites and, in air near dry cleaning facilities. Small business drycleaners, the halogenated solvent industry and, children's and health-focused public interest groups are closely watching this assessment.

This assessment addresses the potential non-cancer and cancer human health effects from chronic or long-term exposure to tetrahydrofuran (THF). This assessment contains estimates of the amount of THF that one can be exposed to every day over the course of a lifetime without harmful health effects, as well as estimates of the cancer risk of liftetime exposure. There is currently no IRIS assessment for THF on the IRIS database. This assessment concludes there is "suggestive evidence of carcinogenic potential" from exposure to THF." This conclusion is based on evidence of liver and kidney tumors in studies where male and female rats breathed THF. The noncancer assessment is based on decreased body weight gain in the offspring of rats who were exposed to THF in their drinking water and increased liver weight in male mice that inhaled THF. This assessment, when final, will support future regulatory limits and clean-up values for this chemical. The assessment of inhalation health effects will be especially important for EPA's Office of Water since THF is included in the preliminary third Contaminant Candidate list for drinking water. THF is an ingredient used to manufacture elastic polymers, and it is present in adhesives and printing inks. THF is also used in the synthesis of various chemical and pharmaceutical products. THF has been found in drinking water and at Superfund sites. The Tetrahydrofuran Task Force of the Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates is likely to be interested in this assessment.

In July 2010, EPA placed four ongoing IRIS assessments on hold pending a review of some of the underlying studies used in the assessments. EPA held these assessments because of a report from the National Toxicology Program (NTP), a program administered by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), which outlined a review of research completed by the Ramazzini Institute, a lab in Italy that conducts animal testing to evaluate the potential cancer-causing effects of chemicals. NTP's report discussed findings from an NTP assessment of an animal study on methanol and recommended that further pathology reviews be carried out to resolve differences of opinion between NTP scientists and the Ramazzini Institute in the diagnoses of certain cancers reported in the study.

To ensure the Agency's chemical assessments are grounded in the soundest possible science, EPA and NIEHS jointly sponsored an independent Pathology Working Group (PWG) review, in cooperation with the Ramazzini Institute, of selected studies to inform EPA's decisions on next steps for the four draft IRIS assessments on hold as well as two completed and publicly posted assessments that relied substantially on Ramazzini data. The PWG recently completed its review and is preparing to release its report.

This assessment addresses potential non-cancer and cancer human health effects from chronic or long-term exposures. It contains toxicity values of the estimated daily amount that one can be exposed to over a lifetime without harmful health effects, as well as toxicity values to estimate the cancer risk from lifetime exposure. Today, biphenyl is mainly used as a chemical synthesis intermediate for pesticides, as a dye carrier in polyester dyeing, and as a component in heat transfer fluids. Biphenyl is found at multiple Superfund sites as well as other hazardous waste sites. It is on the list of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) and is classified as one of the High Production Volume (HPV) chemicals produced in or imported to the U.S. in quantities of more than 1 million pounds per year. Biphenyl was nominated for reassessment by OAR. Industries that use biphenyl, including textile dyeing and fruit processing and packaging, might be interested.

This assessment addresses potential non-cancer human health effects from chronic or long-term exposure to methanol. It contains toxicity values estimating the amount of methanol that an individual can be exposed to every day for a lifetime either by mouth or breathing that will not result in harmful health effects. Methanol is a high production volume chemical with many commercial uses. It is a basic building block for numerous chemicals. Many of its derivatives are used in the construction, housing or automotive industries. Consumer products that contain methanol include varnishes, shellacs, paints, windshield washer fluid, antifreeze, adhesives, deicers, and Sterno heaters. Inhalation exposure to methanol can occur from usage of methanol-containing solvents and products, methanol production, end-product manufacturing, and storage and handling losses. Oral exposure to methanol is thought to be primarily through diet. This assessment, when final, may garner industry attention as it was temporarily put on hold while controversial data from an Italian laboratory was re-evaluated by an independent Pathology Working Group.

This assessment addresses the potential cancer human health effects from chronic or long-term exposure to ethylene oxide. This assessment contains estimates of the amount of ethylene oxide that one can be exposed to every day over the course of a lifetime without harmful health effects, as well as estimates of the cancer risk of lifetime exposure. A 1985 Health Assessment Document published by EPA's Office of Health and Environmental Assessment (NCEA's predecessor organization) assessed the carcinogenicity of ethylene oxide and developed an inhalation unit risk (IUR) estimate on the basis of rodent studies. However, the 1985 assessment is not an IRIS assessment and the IRIS database does not currently contain an assessment for ethylene oxide or a cancer designation for ethylene oxide. This assessment concludes that ethylene oxide is "likely to be carcinogenic to humans." This conclusion is based on strong epidemiological evidence in humans, experimental animal data, and evidence of a mutagenic mode of action. This assessment, when final, will support future regulatory limits and clean-up values for this chemical. The assessment of inhalation health effects will be especially important for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation since ethylene oxide is a Hazardous Air Pollutant under the Clean Air Act. EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) also approved the re-registration of ethylene oxide in 2008 for use as a sterilizing agent for medical and laboratory equipment and as a fumigant for spices. OPP is conducting a Special Review of this chemical that is currently on hold pending the completion of this assessment. Ethylene oxide is manufactured from ethylene and used primarily as a chemical intermediate in the manufacture of ethylene glycol. It is also used as a sterilizing agent for medical equipment and as a fumigating agent for spices. The release of this final assessment will be of great interest to industry trade groups including the American Chemistry Council and some companies that are members of the Council that use and manufacture ethylene oxide.

This is the first assessment of the potential human health effects from chronic or long-term exposures to halogenated platinum salts. This assessment contains an estimate of the amount of these salts that one can breath daily over a lifetime without harmful effects based on workplace exposure. There will likely be controversy about this estimate as it will be the most potent non-cancer human health toxicity value on the IRIS database. The assessment concludes that there is inadequate information to assess the cancer-causing effects. When final, this assessment will support future regulatory limits and clean-up values for this chemical. This assessment was requested by OAR/OTAQ because of platinum's use as a diesel fuel additive. The major uses of platinum include in jewelry production, automotive emission control catalysts (catalytic converters) and other commercial applications (e.g., oxidation catalysts). Significant stakeholder reaction is expected. Primary stakeholders include the International Precious Metals Institute, European Precious Metals Federation, and Clean Diesel Technologies. While halogenated platinum salts are different from elemental platinum and other platinum compounds, some stakeholders are concerned that this assessment will place an undue stigma on the use of all platinum, which would have significant economic impacts and environmental impacts (possible impact on the production and use of catalytic converters).
This assessment addresses potential cancer and non-cancer health effects from exposure to formaldehyde. It contains toxicity values of the estimated amount that one can be exposed to daily over a lifetime by breathing that without harmful health effects, as well as toxicity values to estimate the cancer risk from lifetime exposure. This assessment meets multiple EPA needs, including actions within the Office of Air and Radiation and the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. Formaldehyde is an important industrial chemical used to make other chemicals, building materials, and household products, and is used in the production of fertilizer, paper, plywood and urea-formaldehyde resins. Formaldehyde can off-gas from materials made with it and is also naturally occurring. In June 2010, EPA released its draft formaldehyde assessment for external peer review and review by the National Research Council, of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). In April 2011, EPA received the final review report from the NAS formaldehyde panel and the Agency is implementing the recommendations. States, the American Chemistry Council, the CIIT Centers for Health Research, and private sector environmental and public health interest groups are closely following this assessment.
This IRIS assessment addresses potential cancer and non-cancer health effects associated with exposure. It contains toxicity values of the estimated amount of hexavalent chromium that one can be exposed to daily over a lifetime by mouth that will not result in harmful health effects, as well as toxicity values to estimate the cancer risk from lifetime exposure. EPA's interested offices are the Office of Water and Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response to address regulatory mandates and clean-up objectives, respectively; and, Regions 2, 7, and 9 to address potential public health issues associated with exposure to hexavalent chromium. Hexavalent chromium has been used historically in the chrome plating of metals, as an ingredient in dyes and pigments, in the leather tanning process, and as a wood preservative. It is often released into the environment following the disposal of chromium-containing materials or as a byproduct of the processes that use this metal. External parties who may be interested include Congress, environmental organizations and industry.

This IRIS assessment addresses potential cancer and non-cancer health effects associated with exposure to a particular mixture of types of asbestos found in the vermiculite ore mined near Libby, MT. It contains toxicity values estimating the amount of Libby asbestos that an individual can be exposed to daily over a lifetime by breathing without harmful health effects, as well as toxicity values to estimate the cancer risk from lifetime exposure. The information will be used by US EPA Region 8 to evaluate its ongoing Superfund related clean-up activities in the Libby area where the mining and milling of vermiculite exposed workers and residents to asbestos fibers. In addition, several million homes across the US and Canada may have vermiculite attic insulation from the Libby, MT mine, and industrial facilities may also have used this material. Amphibole asbestos is used in low density insulation board and ceiling tiles and thermal and chemical insulation. There is intense interest in this topic from Congress, industry, Health Canada, and the Libby, MT community. Significant media coverage is expected.

This assessment addresses potential non-cancer human health effects from chronic or long-term exposures. It contains toxicity values of the estimated amount of PCBs that one can be exposed to daily over a lifetime without harmful health effects. PCBs have been utilized for various commercial applications such as insulating fluids, hydraulic and lubricating fluids, heat exchanger fluids, and additives in adhesives and paints. Schools in several areas have been identified as having current PCB levels of concern due to residual indoor sources such as light ballasts.States and private sector environmental and public health interest groups will likely closely follow this activity.

This assessment addresses potential cancer human health effects from chronic or long-term exposure. It contains toxicity values of the estimated daily amount of arsenic that one can be exposed to daily over a lifetime without harmful health effects, as well as toxicity values to estimate the cancer risk from lifetime exposure. The contamination of a drinking water source by arsenic can result from either natural or human activities. Ninety percent of the arsenic used by US industry is for wood preservative purposes, and it is also used in paints, drugs, dyes, soaps, metals,semi-conductors, agricultural applications, mining, and smelting. In 2010 EPA revised the assessement in response to a 2007 Science Advisory Board (SAB) review, and then requested an SAB review of the revisions which was recieved in 2011. Industry groups and the Small Business Administration have criticized EPA's interpretation of the science even though EPA's interpretation is consistent with National Research Council and SAB's recommendations, and strong criticism from industry groups is likely as the Agency moves towards finalizing the assessment.
This assessment addresses potential non-cancer human health effects from chronic or long-term exposures. It contains toxicity values of the estimated amount of arsenic that one can be exposed to daily over a lifetime without harmful health effects. The contamination of a drinking water source by arsenic can result from either natural or human activities. Ninety percent of the arsenic used by US industry is for wood preservative purposes. Arsenic is also used in paints, drugs, dyes, soaps, metals,semi-conductors, agricultural applications, mining, and smelting. Industry groups and the Small Business Administration have criticized EPA's interpretation of the science even though it is consistent with the recommendations of the National Research Council (NRC) and Science Advisory Board (SAB). There is likely to be strong criticism from industry groups as the Agency moves towards finalizing the assessment.
*A reference dose is EPA's designation of the quantity of a substance that can be ingested by an individual every day for a lifetime without producing harmful health effects.
*NCEA publishes Federal Register Notices (FRNs) for draft IRIS assessments being released for public comment and external peer review as well as draft ISAs and some reports.